

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application, claims 4, 5 and 7 having been amended herein.

Claims 14 and 15 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claim 7 was objected to for containing a minor informality. Claim 7 has been amended herein to correct the informality.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for reciting both a broad and narrow range.

Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kinnunen et al. (US 5,531,396).

Claims 2 and 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinnunen et al. in view of Saukkonen et al. (US 4,883,233).

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for reciting both a broad and narrow range. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended herein to only recite the broad range and new dependent claims 14 and 15 have been added which are respectively dependent on claims 4 and 5. Claims 14 and 15 recite the narrow range previously recited in claims 4 and 5.

In view of the amendments to the claims it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been overcome.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kinnunen et al. (US 5,531,396). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Initially it is merely noted that the Kinnunen reference as well as the Saukkonen reference were cited in the International Preliminary Examination Report issued in connection with the International Application upon which the present application is based and the International Preliminary Examination Authority determined that despite the teachings of the cited references that present invention met the requirements for patentability.

It is submitted that Kinnunen merely discloses the state of the art describing a device and method for reeling paper using a support belt but *completely* fails to teach or suggest a spiral-shaped groove as claimed. Based on the teachings of Kinnunen one skilled in the art would only provide a roll mantle with guide grooves parallel to the circumference of roll mantle. However there is no teaching or suggestion in Kinnunen whatsoever to provide a roll mantle with a spiral-shaped groove as claimed.

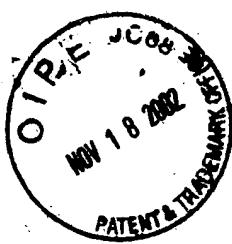
In view of the above it is submitted that the Kinnunen reference fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2 and 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinnunen et al. in view of Saukkonen et al. (US 4,883,233). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above it is submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion whatsoever in Kinnunen to provide a roll mantle with a spiral-shaped groove as claimed. Further, as a general point, it is submitted that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Kinnunen with the teachings of Saukkonen et al. for any reason. Kinnunen et al. generally relates to operation with less breaks, easier handling of breaks and easier threading. Saukkonen et al. generally relates to enlarging of the roll size. One of ordinary skill in the art would not think to combine the teachings of these references because the fabric loops are arrangements proposed for difference devices (i.e., reel-up vs. slitter) and because the Kinnunen arrangement includes a thin air-permeable wire while the Saukkonen et al. arrangement includes a thick air-impermeable belt, preferably a rubber mat. Thus, since the arrangements set forth in these references are so distinct it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of these references.

In view of the above it is submitted that the teachings of Saukkonen cannot be combined with the teachings of Kinnunen in any manner to thereby render the claimed invention obvious.



Conclusion

In view of the above amendments it is submitted that the Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome and should be removed and the present application should now be in condition for allowance.

Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

In the event that any fee is required for the entry of this amendment the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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